

**Opening Statement of Republican Leader Fred Upton**  
**Subcommittee on Energy**  
**“Investing in America’s Energy Infrastructure: Improving Energy Efficiency**  
**and Creating a Diverse Workforce”**  
**April 10, 2019**  
*As Prepared for Delivery*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for holding this hearing on eight Department of Energy workforce and efficiency bills. I am pleased to see that our bill from last Congress was included, H.R. 2144, the “Enhancing State Energy Security Planning and Emergency Preparedness Act.” You and I worked together on that bill, and it passed the House by voice vote. I look forward to seeing this bill get across the finish line this Congress.

As we know from our oversight work, our energy infrastructure is comprised of a vast network of energy and electricity delivery systems. These intricate and highly interdependent systems enable almost every aspect of our daily lives. The nation's economy, security, and the health and safety of its citizens depend upon the reliable and uninterrupted delivery of fuels and electricity, which is why it is so important to stay on top of maintenance and modernization. At the same time, we must also remain vigilant when it comes to energy security planning and emergency preparedness.

Since the inception of the Department of Energy's State Energy Program in 1975, the manner in which energy and power is generated,

transmitted, and delivered continues to rapidly change and evolve. Recent hurricanes, fires, and cyber-related events have raised concerns about the security and resiliency of the nation's energy and electricity systems, and States have emphasized the need to prioritize energy security, emergency planning, and energy infrastructure protection.

H.R. 2144 will modernize and reauthorize DOE's State Energy Program through 2025. It's a good bill that will help States with tools to plan and prepare for energy security emergencies. I encourage my colleagues to support.

We also have a couple other bipartisan bills from last Congress, H.R. 2019, the "Smart Energy and Water Efficiency Act;" and, H.R. 2044, the "Smart Building Acceleration Act." These bills will help save energy in public buildings and encourage the adoption of innovative technologies to conserve water in communities across the country. These are also good, bipartisan bills, and I look forward to receiving input from DOE to further perfect them.

Unfortunately, we haven't had enough time to review some of the other bills before us today, because they were just introduced on Monday and we haven't had the opportunity for background hearings.

I am also troubled by the fact that the Majority has not seemed to take interest in our offer to make the workforce bill bipartisan. As we have said, we should return to the original version that was agreed upon.

I believe we could improve the bill and it could pass again with unanimous consent if it were simply “all-of-the-above” and inclusive of all underrepresented groups, including women and veterans.

Mr. Chairman, I hope we can return to regular order so that Members have the opportunity to make informed judgements about the need for legislation and the effect of these bills.

I would like to thank our DOE witnesses, Assistant Secretary Daniel Simmons and Mr. James Campos, for appearing before us today so that we can learn about DOE’s efforts on efficiency and workforce development and determine whether additional legislative authorities are necessary. Given the price tag of these new bills is in the tens of billions of dollars, we owe it to our taxpayers and to consumers to take our time and determine whether the spending is justified.

I’ll keep an open mind, and as I’ve said before, we are ready to get to work if the Democrats are serious about this effort. It is disappointing that we’re starting this way with some of these bills, but I hope things will improve if we can get a commitment to return to regular order.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.